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Letter dated 23 March 2002 from the Permanent Representative of Iraq to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to transmit to you herewith a letter dated 23 March 2002 from Mr. Naji Sabri, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Iraq. Appended to the Minister's letter is a table showing the violations of Iraq's international boundaries that were committed by United States and British warplanes flying across the demilitarized zone monitored by the United Nations Iraq-Kuwait Observation Mission (UNIKOM) in the period from 26 January to 1 March 2002.

The Minister urges you to instruct UNIKOM to perform its duties in full, to report these violations to the Security Council through you as soon as they occur and to specify the number and nationality of the warplanes that violate the demilitarized zone, given that such violations constitute wanton aggression against the people, sovereignty and territory of Iraq, as well as against United Nations peacekeeping operations. He further asks you to alert the Security Council to its responsibility to halt this aggression and ensure that its perpetrators are held accountable for it under international law.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Mohammed A. **Aldouri**
Permanent Representative

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Annex to the letter dated 23 March 2002 from the Permanent Representative of Iraq to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Further to our letter dated 10 February 2002, I should like to inform you that in the period from 26 January to 1 March 2002 United States and British warplanes flying from bases in Kuwait, from Kuwait's airspace and territorial waters and by way of the demilitarized zone monitored by the United Nations Iraq-Kuwait Observation Mission (UNIKOM) committed 306 violations of our international boundaries. As shown in the table appended to this letter, the relevant Iraqi agencies have determined that the violations committed were as follows:

1. Armed aerial activity by the United States and the United Kingdom, violating our international boundaries from the United States and British bases in Kuwait, from Kuwait's airspace and territorial waters and by way of the demilitarized zone, comprised 306 armed sorties in the Dhi Qar, Muthanna, Basrah, Maysan and Qadisiyah governorates.

2. Our technical systems identified the aircraft violating Iraq's airspace on a daily basis as American F-14s, F-15s and F-16s and British Tornadoes.

3. An AWACS aircraft operating inside Saudi airspace and an E-2C aircraft operating inside Kuwaiti airspace provided support to all of the United States and British aircraft that carried out armed and hostile sorties, violating Iraq's airspace by way of the demilitarized zone.

4. Between 26 January and 1 March 2002, a total of 20 remotely piloted aircraft violated Iraq's airspace from United States and British bases in Kuwait, from Kuwait's airspace and territorial waters and by way of the demilitarized zone.

All of the violations in question were committed by way of the demilitarized zone in which UNIKOM is stationed. One of UNIKOM's primary responsibilities is to monitor such hostile military operations and to report them and endeavour to halt them immediately.

The statements of UNIKOM to the effect that it is unable to monitor or identify these aircraft are untenable in the light of the scientific and technological capabilities that the United Nations Secretariat should make available to it so that it may establish the identity and nationality of the warplanes that are violating Iraq's sovereign airspace and the demilitarized zone and notify the Security Council to take the necessary measures to halt such violations forthwith. In another respect, even if UNIKOM did not have the systems needed to identify the type and nationality of these aircraft, the fact that they come from the direction of Kuwait confirms that they are those of the United States and the United Kingdom, because these two countries do not deny that they are engaging in aggression against Iraq on a daily basis from Kuwait. Your report on UNIKOM for the period from 28 March to 4 September 2001 (S/2001/913) indicates as much, and paragraph 6 states that "[it should be noted] that the mission's inability to identify the States responsible for conducting such flights is in no way to be understood as condoning them". You also state in the report that the United States and the United Kingdom have acknowledged that they are continuing to enforce a no-flight zone in southern Iraq.

I accordingly urge you once more to instruct UNIKOM to perform its duties in full, to report these violations to the Security Council through you as soon as they occur and to specify the number and nationality of the warplanes that violate the demilitarized zone and commit aggression against Iraq, given that this constitutes State terrorism and wanton aggression against Iraq and against its people, its sovereignty and its territory, as well as against United Nations peacekeeping operations. I also ask you to alert the Security Council to its responsibility to halt this aggression and ensure that its perpetrators are held accountable for it under international law.

(*Signed*) Naji **Sabri**
Minister for Foreign Affairs

Enclosure

Hostile aerial activity violating Iraq's international boundaries from Kuwait and by way of the demilitarized zone, 26 January-1 March 2002

No.	Date	From	Time	Type	Armed sorties	Altitude (metres)	Speed (km/h)	Areas overflown
1	26 January-15 February	Kuwait	1220-2050	F-14, F-15, F-16	208, including 8 drones	8,000-11,500	240-780	Basrah, Artawi, Busayyah, Salman, Jalibah, Ashbajah, Qal'at Salih, Lasaf, Qurnah, Amarah, Nasiriyah, Safwan, Shinafiyah, Mashkhab, Nukhayb
2	16 February-1 March	Kuwait	0930-2140	F-14, F-15, F-16	98, including 12 drones	8,000-11,000	240-780	Artawi, Nasiriyah, Umm Qasr, Basrah, Busayyah, Jalibah, Qurnah, Salman, Nukhayb, Qal'at Salih, Samawah, Safwan, Lasaf, Shinafiyah, Ma'aniyah, Shatrah, Rifa'i, Jabayish, Amarah

Total sorties: 306